

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 NEA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 PM-03

TRSE-00 PRS-01 EB-03 SPC-01 MBFR-02 USIA-04 DRC-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4386

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: CA, MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: CANADIAN DEFENSE PROPOSALS

REF: (A) USNATO 4266, (B) USNATO 4155, (C) USNATO 4223

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH SEPT 19, UK PERMREP PECK REPEATED HMG'S CONCERN ABOUT CANADIAN PLANS TO WITHDRAW FOUR DESTROYERS AND CERTAIN OTHER UNITS FROM ITS NATO COMMITMENTS. HE SAID LONDON WELCOMES THE CANADIAN INTENTION TO INCREASE ITS DEFENSE BUDGET ANNUALLY BY 7 PERCENT, BUT THAT EVEN THIS SUM WILL HARDLY KEEP UP WITH INFLATION.

2. CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES REGRETTED THAT THE BRITISH AND DANES HAD QUESTIONED THE CANADIANS SO CLOSELY IN THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE. THE RESULT WAS THAT OTTAWA WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET ITS TARGET DATE OF SEPTEMBER 20 FOR A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT DEFENSE SPENDING PLANS. MENZIES SUGGESTED THAT OTHER PERMREPS HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CANADIAN PROPOSALS PROVIDE HIM WITH THEIR QUESTIONS
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AT ONCE SO THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE ADQUATE REPLIES TO THEM AT THE DPC ON SEPT 19 OR IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

3. DEPUTY SYG PANSAL SAID THAT THE MC REPORT WOULD REACH

PERMREPS ON SEPT 18 FOR THEIR REVIEW.

4. MENZIES REMARKED THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS SUCH CONCERN OVER THE REDUCTION OF FOUR CANADIAN DESTROYERS WHEN A U.S. REDUCTION OF 20 DESTROYERS EARLIER THIS SUMMER HAD BEEN APPROVED BY NATO WITH LITTLE OR NO COMMENT. RUMSFELD

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